

nation's defense and promoting the nation's health and prosperity.

Over the past 50 years, NSF-funded research has led to numerous scientific breakthroughs that have impacted the lives of every one of us. This research has resulted in projects and initiatives that include the development of the Internet, Doppler Radar, the American Sign Language Dictionary, DNA fingerprinting, MRI technology, barcodes, the identification of the Hanta Virus, and the discovery of the weather pattern known as El Nino/La Nina. This research has been responsible for creating new industries relating to communications, biotechnology, agriculture, and other important sectors of our economy. In turn, these industries have resulted in greater employment opportunities, economic prosperity and an improved quality of life for Americans and citizens around the world.

NSF funds support the work and research of almost 200,000 people, including teachers, students, researchers, post-doctorates, and trainees. In fact, researchers and educators from each of the 50 states and all U.S. territories have been allotted NSF funding in the form of competitively awarded, grants, contracts and cooperative agreements. Almost 40% of the funding for research grants is awarded to our nation's students and researchers, providing support for more than 61,000 post-doctorates, trainees and graduates and undergraduate students. These are the individuals who will carry on the critical mission of NSF into the 21st century.

The work undertaken by NSF researchers has not gone unnoticed. NSF-supported researchers have been the recipients of numerous awards and honors. More than 100 of these researchers have been awarded Nobel Prizes in fields that include physics, chemistry, physiology and economics. NSF researchers have also been awarded the National Medal of Science, National Medal of Technology, the Waterman, the Draper, the Presidential Early Career Awards in Science and Engineering and the Career awards, to name a few.

I want to commend the men and women who have worked for NSF and received support from NSF who have contributed incalculably to the efforts that have established the United States as the leader in scientific and technological innovation and I want to recognize the outstanding leadership of the current Director of the National Science Foundation, Dr. Rita Colwell, in this regard. I urge my colleagues to join with me in commending NSF on this important occasion and wishing them continued success in the years ahead.●

RECOGNITION OF THE INDEX SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THEIR INNOVATION IN EDUCATION

● Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I would like to acknowledge a very unique

school district in a forested area of Washington State. The Index School District may be small in size but if measured by the creativity and dedication of its teachers, staff, and parents, it would be one of the largest districts in Washington state.

Index School District is one of the smallest in the state, with only 35 students from preschool to 7th grade. Because of the district's size and location in a rural area, the district has constantly struggled to find funding that could boost student achievement. Index's Superintendent and Principal, Martin Boyle, took the funding challenges head on and has worked tirelessly to find money for Index's students through federal grants and a \$298,208 bond levy that was passed in 1998. After four years of hard work, the Index School District has become a model for other schools.

Improving student reading levels was one of the first goals Boyle and his colleagues accomplished. The district hired a reading specialist and with the help of parents and local volunteers, reading levels have soared. Recently, Boyle started a new mentor reading program called, "Help One Student to Succeed." He hopes it will get parents involved in teaching their children to read, as well as a new way to promote and innovate reading skills, advancing student reading levels by an even greater margin.

Index School District's includes 20 staff members and 5 board members who work tirelessly for their students and are constantly brainstorming new activities and new programs that will help their students learn. They have even started an after-school program for children who in the past, were sitting outside waiting for their parents' workday to end. Students now use this extra time to participate in fun activities that reinforce classroom curriculum.

In addition, last summer, the district implemented the Index Elementary Summer School Program where students take part in hands on art and cultural activities. Students also visit art museums and theaters, as well as travel to other parts of the state for hiking and camping activities, giving children opportunities to learn and challenge their knowledge outside the classroom.

Many students at Index also depend on their school as a home away from home, relying on the school for three meals a day. While a majority of students qualify for free and reduced lunches, the staff of Index understands the importance of meals for their students and have made it a priority to create and fund a food program which was recognized with a "Children's Alliance Award."

The innovation and commitment of the Index School District's staff is truly inspiring. Clearly, the children are succeeding in the classroom and will be ready to take on any challenge. I think it is uplifting to hear that the

power of a few can empower many, as the educator's of Index have done. Every local school district is unique. I hope that highlighting Index with my "Innovation in Education" Award will show others that wonderful things happen when you put children first.●

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SALVATION ARMY IN BENTON HARBOR, MICHIGAN

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of the Salvation Army in Benton Harbor, Michigan, which on May 20-21, 2000, will celebrate its 75th Anniversary. This event will conclude a very special week for the organization, as May 15-21, 2000, is also National Salvation Army Week, during which Americans have the opportunity to salute an organization that does so many things for so many people around the world.

Mr. President, the mission of the movement remains the same as it was in 1865, when William and Catherine Booth formed an evangelical group, and preached to people living in poverty on the east side of London: to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination. The organization, officially titled the Salvation Army in 1878, and its many adherents, soldiers, officers, and volunteers, remain dedicated to caring for the poor, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, loving the unlovable, and befriending those who have no friends.

In its 135 years, the Salvation Army has expanded from this small coalition of individuals in London into a multifaceted, global organization. Its outreach currently extends to over 100 countries, and the Gospel is preached by its officers and soldiers in 160 languages. Each year, the organization assists over 27 million individuals. In the United States alone, there are 1.7 million volunteers, 470,000 Salvationists, 5,339 officers, and 43,000 employees serving the Salvation Army.

Amid such statistics I fear it is easy to overlook the essential fact that the foundation of the Salvation Army lies at the community level. It is an organization based in communities, whose volunteers, officers and employees are primarily concerned with helping members of their own community in the name of Jesus Christ. Whether it be through summer camps, day care centers, services for senior citizens, shelters for battered wives and children, drug rehabilitation, or family and career counseling, where there is a Salvation Army, there are people working hard to improve their community.

With this in mind, Mr. President, I applaud the officers, Salvationists, volunteers and employees of the Salvation Army in Benton Harbor, whose efforts over the years have had made this anniversary possible. On behalf of the entire United States Senate, I wish the Salvation Army in Benton Harbor a happy 75th birthday, and continued success in the future.●